

South Dakota National Guard

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Airborne infantry drops into Golden Coyote training exercise

By Staff Sgt. Michael Beck
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CAMP GUERNSEY, Wyo. – National Guard Soldiers perform combat airdrop training at Camp Guernsey, Wyo., as a part of the 31st Golden Coyote training exercise hosted by the South Dakota National Guard, June 6-20.

The Texas Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 143rd Infantry Regiment (Airborne), is performing four jump missions during the exercise.

"Our first jump was challenging," said Spc. Susana Olalde, a cook with the 143rd's Forward Support Company. "We jump with all of our gear, which is pretty heavy."

These airborne Soldiers carry their full gear which includes their weapon, kevlar and up to a 100-pound rucksack while jumping out of an aircraft.

A few of the Soldiers made their first jump outside of Airborne School

"I was a little nervous on my first jump," said 1st Sgt. Jose Gilberto Del Bosque, of the 143rd's Forward Support Company, who made his first jump this exercise at 46 years old. "It turned out fine once I focused on what I was doing and did what the jump masters told me to do."

The 143rd will be utilizing a range of aircraft this year as a part of their operations.

"Our deployment jump used two C-17 and five C-130 Air Force aircraft," said Lt. Col. Max Krupp, commander of 1-143rd Infantry.

The airborne unit not only conducts operations during the day but they also jump at night.

"We conduct operations in hours of limited visibility to leverage our night vision capabilities and increase stealth," said Krupp.

The 143rd's final jump during Golden Coyote will be the beginning of the full-scale cumulating training event, and will consist of three C-130 aircraft delivering a 150-man strike force to assault multiple objectives. The unit expects to perform a total of 720 individual jumps during this year's exercise.



150608-A-GC728-045: – Texas Army National Guard Paratrooper Spc. Joe Castillo of 1st Battalion, 143rd Infantry Regiment (Airborne), from Austin, Texas, puts his parachute into his aviator's kit bag after landing on John Edmunds drop zone at Camp Guernsey, Wyo., during the Golden Coyote training exercise, June 6, 2015. Golden Coyote gives service members from all over the country and world an opportunity to train on their skills. (US Army photo by Spc. Brady Pritchett/Released)



150608-A-QI240-237: – U.S. Army Sgt. Russell Smart (center) of 1st Battalion, 143rd Infantry Regiment (Airborne), Texas Army National Guard, instructs Pfc. Dakota Ellender on checking his azimuth at a drop zone on Camp Guernsey, Wyo., on June 8, 2015. Ellender along with other Soldiers pulled security following a jump as part of Golden Coyote training exercise. Golden Coyote gives service members from all over the country and world an opportunity to train on their skills. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Josephine Carlson)



150608-A-QI240-089 – A C-17 flies overhead as paratroopers jump onto a drop zone on Camp Guernsey, Wyo., during the Golden Coyote training exercise on June 8, 2015. Golden Coyote gives service members from all over the country and world an opportunity to train on their skills. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Josephine Carlson/Released)



150607-A-PD347-177 – U.S. Army Lt. Col. Max Krupp, commander of the 1st Battalion, 143rd Infantry Regiment (Airborne), Texas Army National Guard, prepares to jump out of a C-130J aircraft flying over the Black Hills of South Dakota, during Golden Coyote training exercise, June 7, 2015. Golden Coyote gives service members from all over the country and world an opportunity to train on their skills. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Bryant Abel/Released)



150608-A-PG822-005: – Officers from the 1st Battalion, 143rd Infantry Regiment (Airborne), Texas Army National Guard, establish communications on John Edmunds drop zone in Camp Guernsey, Wyo., on June 8, 2015, during the Golden Coyote training exercise. Golden Coyote gives service members from all over the country and world an opportunity to train on their skills. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Joseph Cathey/Released)



150608-A-YX345-051 – A U.S. Army Soldier of 1st Battalion, 143rd Infantry Regiment (Airborne), Texas Army National Guard, conducts airborne operations out of a C-17 on Camp Guernsey, Wyo., as part of the Golden Coyote exercise, June 8, 2015. Golden Coyote gives service members from all over the country and world an opportunity to train on their skills. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Amber Stephens)



150608-A-QI240-152 – U.S. Army Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 143rd Infantry Regiment (Airborne), Texas Army National Guard, conduct airborne operations on Camp Guernsey, Wyo., as part of the Golden Coyote exercise, June 8, 2015. Golden Coyote gives service members from all over the country and world an opportunity to train on their skills. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Amber Stephens)



150607-A-FA208-140: U.S. Army Spc. Joseph Karthman, with the Forward Support Company, 1st Battalion, 143rd Infantry Regiment (Airborne), Texas Army National Guard, recovers his weapon in order to move on to the next step in the operation at Camp Guernsey, Wyo., during the Golden Coyote training exercise, June 07, 2015. Golden Coyote gives service members from all over the country and world an opportunity to train on their skills. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Tamara Cummings/Released)

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